

OCT 1 1952

VOL. XVI, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1952

# LIBRARY NEWS

ISSUED QUARTERLY

By

**THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION**

JACKSON

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Inside view of the Tallahatchie County bookmobile—In the foreground A. L. Pressgrove, President of the County Board of Supervisors, and Mrs. Sara Dickson, bookmobile librarian, showing books to children. In the back is J. A. Blount, former legislator and friend of the library; also Miss May Neeley, Russell Gray, Edgar Polley and Miss Joyce Raney.

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## MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEETING

Jackson, October 2-4, 1952

Heidelberg Hotel

Anona Jenkins, president, submits the following program outline which, she says can hardly do justice to the stimulating program which the Association will have this year. As this goes to press in August only a few details remain to be completed. Anona urges librarians, trustees and all interested citizens to attend all sessions. Make hotel reservations early.

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### THEME: OUR American Heritage

**October 2 Thursday**

2:00—6 P.M.—Registration and Exhibits

8:00—First General Session

#### **Problems Clinic—Panel Discussion**

Moderator, Mamie Berry, Vice-President, assisted by Lura Currier, Margaret Peebles and others.

#### Topics for Discussion:

- A. Financing the Library (A prominent member of a County Board of Supervisors will participate in the discussion)
- B. Simplified Techniques & Procedures
- C. Audio-Visual Aids

Reception following meeting

**October 3 Friday**

8:30—9:30 A.M.—Registration and Exhibits

9:30—Second General Session. Presiding, Miss Anona Jenkins, President

Welcome—Governor Hugh L. White

Introduction of Exhibitors—Miss Martha Owen, Chairman of Exhibits Committee

#### **Business Session—Some items of business will include:**

- A. Treasurer's Report—Elizabeth Dakin
- B. Raising membership dues—Miss Pearl Sneed, Chairman of Constitution and By Laws
- C. Publication of an MLA Bulletin, Donald Thompson, chairman of committee for special study and report
- D. Presenting Awards—Dorothy Hayes, Chairman, Awards Committee
- E. Other Committee Reports

**Address**—The Challenge to Libraries in Preserving Our Heritage: Speaker, Mr. Malcomb Richardson, Editor of the American Library Association Bulletin

**12:30—Citizen's Library Movement Luncheon**

Presiding: Mrs. Cliff Thomas, President of C.L.M.

Subject: Preserving Our Heritage—The Citizen's Responsibility

Mrs. C. C. Clark—American Heritage Director for Mississippi (Other agencies that are promoting American Heritage will be represented)

**3:00—4:30—Open House—Mississippi Library Commission**

Honoring Mr. Tom Person, Author, Greenwood

Mrs. Louise Eskrigge Crump, Author, Greenville

Mrs. Beatrice Rossell, Director of Childcraft

Mrs. Marguerite Vance, Author and Editor of Children's Books, E. P. Dutton & Co.

**4:30—7:00—Free Period**

**7:00 P.M.—Book Dinner**

Guest Speaker—Mr. R. E. Banta, Bookseller and Author of  
THE OHIO, Rivers of America Series

October 4—Saturday

**8:30—9:30—Registration and Exhibits**

**9:30—10:30—Joint Meeting**

Guest Speaker—Mrs. Marguerite Vance, Author and Editor of  
Children's Books

**10:30—11:30—Section Meetings**

College & Special Libraries—Maggie Mae Viverette, Chairman

Public Libraries—Maria Person, Chairman

School Libraries—Mary Love, Chairman

**11:30—1:00—Exhibits**

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#### **Library Commission Sponsors American Heritage Project**

Clubs, classes, people in groups and as individuals are talking about,  
thinking about, reading about our great American heritage.

Mississippians of all ages and various degrees of learning are responding  
to the American Heritage Project's stimulation to more reading  
of the documents of American history and political economy and meeting  
with neighbors to discuss them.

The President of the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs said  
she was called on to make seven talks on the American Heritage Theme.  
At least one woman's club, in Hattiesburg, is planning to spend the entire  
club year studying the Heritage program. Neither are the children forgotten  
in Heritage plans. Anona Jenkins says the Clarksdale Public  
Library has had the children's Summer Reading Club on the Heritage  
Theme; and so has Willie Dee Robbins of the St. Tammany Parish Library,  
Covington, Louisiana. (Willie Dee was one of the enthusiastic participants  
at the training sessions in Mississippi last winter). And do these high  
sounding words frighten the children? Will they read these "big books?"  
These librarians said they were apprehensive at first but found to their  
surprise and to the delight of the children that this was the most popular  
summer reading program they have ever had. Children like a challenge!

Last year under the able direction of Jeanne Broach of the Meridian  
Public Library fourteen discussion groups were conducted in various  
parts of the state for both white and Negro adults. A small grant was  
received from the Ford Foundation through the American Library Association  
to promote the project. This year, ALA has made a larger grant  
and the project will be sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission.  
The Library Commission is fortunate in securing the services of Mrs.  
C. C. Clark as project coordinator. Mrs. Clark, who has recently moved  
to Jackson, has done outstanding church and P.T.A. work on state and  
national programs.

This year most of the public libraries in the state that directed group discussions last year will have one or more groups organized this winter and in addition there will probably be ten or twelve new leaders who will be leading group discussions.

In September Mrs. Clark and Eunice Eley will attend a conference in Chicago and learn more about American Heritage and how best to promote it. As soon as schedules are worked out A.L.A. headquarters in Chicago will send Mr. R. E. Dooley, who made himself popular with Mississippi Heritage folks last year, back to the state to evaluate the project and to continue the leader-training program. Librarians, former leaders and new leaders will meet at the Library Commission for the evaluation and training.

Public libraries in the state that have expressed interest in securing local leaders to conduct discussion groups are: Greenwood, Laurel, Meridian, New Albany, Oxford, Tupelo, West Point, Hernando, Clarksdale, Columbus, Corinth, Gulfport, Hazlehurst, Kosciusko, Port Gibson, Greenville, Raymond, Jackson (Carver Branch).

#### Tallahatchie County Dedicates New Bookmobile

Tallahatchie County Library took to the hills and to the plains of her Delta section in August as she put the show on the road in her elegant new bookmobile. The Library Board launched the new traveling library in fine style. Complete with speeches, parades, screaming sirens, blowing horns, and even door prizes.

It was a gala day for the Tallahatchie County Library. Their bookmobile, like most library services in Mississippi, had come the hard way. The far seeing library board saved and scraped to get enough money to get enough courage to go to the Board of Supervisors and say: "Now we have saved half enough. Will you give us the rest?" They did. And the beautiful, first class Gerstenslager bookmobile is the result.

The program on Saturday, August 9, was an inspiring occasion. George Payne Cossar, Tallahatchie County Representative, paid a nice tribute to the tax payer, the man who pays the bills to make such things possible; also the progressive elected officials were not forgotten.

Congressman Jamie Whitten spoke of the fine place that Mississippi is beginning to occupy in national thinking. He humorously reminded the audience that one of the things we have exported in the past was unfavorable publicity. And that the fine library program was an indication that we were beginning to export something else.

Jim Blount, former member of the Legislature and always friend of the library, was there, too. He spoke of what the bookmobile will mean to the rural readers in Tallahatchie County. And of course he remembered the days in the Legislature when there was a fierce struggle going on for the recognition of libraries at the state level.

A tinge of sadness marred the occasion. The beloved Judge Kuykendall was not there to see what his library had become. The "Judge," as Tallahatchie County knew him and loved him, was synonymous with books and reading and education—and with library struggles. Mrs. Allison said it well when she remarked: "Without his support and influence in the lean years, we would never have come to this happy day."

The Library Commission, represented on this occasion by Lura Currier, Field Representative, was glad to remember what Tallahatchie

County's Representatives have done for libraries in the Legislature. It was a good chance to thank Jim Blount for his leadership of two years ago; and to express appreciation to George Payne Cossar for his help in this session. And of course, they said: "We worked in Jackson for libraries because the people back home showed us what they meant, told us what they needed, and urged us to get state support for them."

Jimmy Thomason, County Superintendent of Education; Mrs. Clyde Adams, County Home Demonstration Council President and the current head of the Business and Professional Women and Miss Mae Neely brought tributes in words and flowers to the new traveling library.

The library board and staff realize that, happy as the occasion was, the real job was just beginning—the job of making the bookmobile effective and influential in the lives of the boys and girls and men and women of the county.

Mrs. Eloise Powell, librarian, saw the dream of years come true. Sarah Dickson, the bookmobile librarian, summed up the situation about like one would expect from Sarah when she said:

"Proud of this? What do you think? Why I even loved driving that old bookmobile that the state loaned us two years ago. I am so excited over this one that I couldn't even sleep last night."

But then the note of concern came in. Sarah turned to the field worker and said: "What will we do when we can't let each child have a book?" Indeed, what do we do? Sarah and those like her will find the answer to that one for Mississippi. Citizen leaders like Mrs. Mose Allison, Mrs. L. H. Stubblefield, Mrs. W. M. Gillespie, Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Jr., and Mrs. James Graham will keep on working as good library board members until there are books for everyone to read. Men of vision like the Tallahatchie County Board of Supervisors and the Charleston Board of Aldermen will help them find the answer. The day will come when bookmobile librarians throughout the state will have enough books to meet the demand. Tallahatchie County has done its part to bring about that day. As its beautiful new bookmobile gets covered with red mud from her clay hills and rich black soil from her Delta, the eagerness and hunger for education in her people will find satisfaction.

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#### NORTHEAST REGION ROLLS FIRST CLASS

"Serving four Mississippi counties—Alcorn, Tippah, Tishomingo and Prentiss."

Those flashing letters going about the countryside painted on the Northeast Regional Library's new \$7,500 bookmobile mark another milestone in Mississippi libraries. The story of having more by working together was never better illustrated than it is in this new mobile unit.

On Saturday, July 19, the new red and tan Gerstenslager bookmobile was dedicated before a large crowd of library friends and workers with appropriate words by Mrs. Eunice Eley, Director of the Mississippi Library Commission.

Everyone was there. Well, almost everyone. Many citizens and elected officials who have added their efforts together to produce unified library service in that area were introduced by Lura Currier, Field Representative of the Library Commission, who acted as consultant to the regional library's organization. Jameson Jones, Chairman of the Board,

presided. Other board members from the entire region were present in Mrs. W. L. Mathis of Tippah County, Mrs. Sale Martin of Prentiss County, Mrs. E. H. Curtis, Jr., of Tishomingo County, and Dr. R. B. Warriner of Alcorn.

Librarians never miss a chance to glory in another librarian's pleasure and pride of achievement. They came to congratulate Augusta Richardson, former Alcorn County Librarian who is now Director of the Northeast Region, (and perchance to drool over the beautiful new bookmobile). Willie Dee Halsell of Lee County Library was there; as was Mrs. Gretchen Conduite of Jackson, Tenn.; Mrs. Eloise Powell and Mrs. Sara Dickson of Tallahatchie County. Beth Love and Kent Flowers, and Harvey Jackson of the First Regional Library.

Mrs. W. C. Mathews of Tupelo represented the Board of the Mississippi Library Commission. Tupelo was further represented by two of its Lee County Library Board members, Mrs. Helen Foster and Mrs. Gilmer Gorman.

Miss Jessie Reese, Lee County legislator, spoke of the part that the Legislature had been glad to play in the development of Mississippi libraries.

The Alcorn County Board of Supervisors was there. They are always there when the library is concerned—with their financial support as well as their good wishes. Branch librarians from all the nine affiliated libraries came to see their new bookmobile. Chalybeate and Booneville Women's Clubs, as well as the Woman's Club from Iuka, all three groups of whom played such an important part in the organization of the library, were there. Tippah County group brought one of their Supervisors with them.

Built with inside and outside shelving, this new bookmobile is the first one in the state to be designed to give library service to both white and colored races.



#### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL CONFERENCE

"Books are Basic" was the theme of the seventy-sixth annual session of the American Library Association meeting in New York City June 29-July 5. It was emphasized throughout the convention that other means of mass communication could not take the place of books nor can censorship destroy their power.

At the first general session Lawrence Clark Powell, librarian of the University of California at Los Angeles, urged librarians to be firm in their beliefs and to participate fully in programs of adult education. He stated we should be proud and humble in the practice of our profession, for books are basic—they are not dead things, but tough as life itself.

Mr. Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, was the speaker at the luncheon given by the Friends of Libraries. He stated that extreme rightists, the ignorant and the prejudiced constitute a real Fifth Column in America today on which Communism relies to do its work.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt told an overflow crowd at a general session that Americans need to be informed about the aims of the United Nations. She stressed that one of the United Nations' prime objectives is to erase illiteracy all over the world. Mrs. Roosevelt said that we must

not underestimate our enemies, we must see that our country can stand the test of constant scrutiny. There are many ways of fighting Communism but we can not fight it with ignorance or suppression. We must have a democratic sense of personal responsibility.

Mr. T. J. Ross, speaking on Internal Public Relations for Libraries, said that the objective of public relations is to create favorable public opinion, and that public opinion is affected not only by what one says or does, but also by what one doesn't say or do. One of the most valuable assets of a library is an enthusiastic attitude toward service to the public on the part of every member of the staff. It is important to make patrons aware of the high level of service that the library wants to give the public.

Mrs. Genevieve Galick, director of the Massachusetts Division of Public Libraries, declared that small libraries are in a strategic position to serve their public. She declared there is a grave danger that in planning for the future we neglect the present. Small libraries need advice and technical assistance, but they should not lose their identity or be completely swallowed up in a larger unit, and so lose the value of face to face relationships. She proposed strengthening of the state agency in every state so that it might improve and supplement small library services, and cooperation between neighboring towns, with library cards honored in the whole group, planned purchasing and reciprocal borrowing.

In a panel discussion of practical research projects for library extension it was brought out that more research is needed on standards of extent or size of service areas, costs to communities of consolidation into larger units, percent of tax dollars that can be expected to go for library service, the cost of certain services, such as centralized cataloging, field supervision, etc. It was stated that people are probably going to support libraries in accordance with their recognition of value and service to the public.

The Association of Young People's Librarians conducted a very interesting panel discussion of whether collections for young people should include 1. Special editions of adult books, 2. Superficial treatment of important subjects, 3. Frank presentations of social problems, and 4. Large quantities of science fiction. Those present were divided into groups for the discussion of the topics, and the conclusions of the groups were presented by the panel. It was concluded that watered down adult books do not accomplish the transition to the reading of adult books. Abridgements are better than no classics at all, but if abridgements are thought necessary, perhaps the reader is not yet ready for classics. The abridgement should not be obvious. A state school library supervisor defended their use, but it was brought out that the school library is more of a controlled situation than a public library. On the superficial treatment of important subjects the generally poor writing was deplored, and it was concluded that the buying of this type of book should depend on local budgets and needs. The third topic, frank presentation of social problems, brought out a variety of opinions on the books under discussion, while most of those present agreed that science fiction has a place in all collections, as a stepping stone to science and imaginative literature.

When the Heritage Program was presented on Friday afternoon Mississippi was well represented.

In the form of a round table, representatives from the eight states that had Heritage Programs swapped stories of their experiences. Lura Currier represented Mississippi in place of Jeanne Broach, Chairman of

the program for Mississippi, who was not able to be present. The audience responded to the human interest tales of Heritage experiences throughout the country. When the chairman of the program signed it off she remarked that the afternoon had been like a travelogue across the United States, with a sharing of experiences from all over the country.

Mississippi Librarians are being asked to contribute to library work throughout the nation. R. B. Downs, President of the American Library Association, has appointed Eunice Eley to the Library Legislation Committee of the nationwide Association; Lura Currier has been reappointed to the Public Relations Committee of which she has been a member for the past two years; Annabelle Koonce, School Library Supervisor, is Membership Chairman for the School Library Division; Mary Love, school library supervisor, Jackson, is state assembly member from Mississippi; Elizabeth Jone, librarian of the Grenada County Library, is on the Membership Committee of the Children's Section; Mrs. Dorthea B. Morse, library science instructor at the University, is general membership chairman for the state; Miss Anna Roberts, Librarian, Mississippi Southern, is Council Representative from the state.

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#### Pre-Conference and Report on School Library Section

by Annabelle Koonce

Prior to the New York meeting the U. S. Office of Education held a two-day conference in Washington, D. C., on Improving the Techniques of Supervision for state, county, and city school library supervisors. Mary Love and I were assigned to work on the topic of In-Service Education. Approximately sixty supervisors took part in the conference.

The theme of the meetings of the American Association of School Librarians at the A.L.A. convention was Books: Pathway to World Understanding. The new executive secretary for this division, Mrs. Racheal De Angelo, was introduced to the membership. Mrs. Laura K. Martin, Department of Library Science, University of Kentucky, was president of the division.

The Children's Library Association and the A.A.S.L. held a reception in honor of authors and artists. The honorees were spaced around the room in alphabetical order so that the members could meet their favorite authors and illustrators. Eleanor Estes, winner of the Newbery medal, sent her greetings to the children of Mississippi. It was exciting to meet in the flesh such people as Berta Hader, Munro Leaf, James Daugherty, Alice Dalgliesh, Walter Farley, Nina Brown Baker, Elizabeth Orton Jones, and others.

Mrs. Dilla McBean (one of the authors of *What Book is That?*) presided at the session on Children, Libraries; and TV Representatives of Chandler Records, Doubleday Company, TV Teladventure Tales, and Marguerite De Angeli were speakers on this program.

Then there were business meetings for the whole division, committee meetings, and breakfasts.

Katherine Rea, Librarian at Bailey Junior High School in Jackson, was able to attend the conference for several days before sailing for Europe.

For years I had read the Newbery and Caldecott acceptance speeches and imagined how exciting it would be to hear them in person. This year

the wish came true when I heard Mr. Melcher read "The King's Breakfast" and heard Eleanor Estes and Nicolas Mordvinoff at the Newbery-Caldecott banquet. I got souvenirs galore when balloons rained on our table with the names of the winners—Ginger Pye and Finders Keepers.

#### Post-Conference

##### Report by Lura Currier

"Upwards of 1,280,000 residents of the state have no library service or receive it not as a legal right . . . nearly 400,000 receive little more than token service . . ."

Now doesn't that quotation make one feel right at home? But it doesn't come from Mississippi at all. It comes from—of all places—New York State!

This excerpt from the Governor's Committee on Library Aid in New York points out how relevant to Mississippi's own library situation was the post conference tour of New York libraries. Among the librarians who remained over in New York for the conference tour was Lura Currier, representative of the Mississippi Library Commission.

Three distinct types of library organization were illustrated in New York's program. All three are illustrative of the principle of larger units of library service.

Schenectady County is much like Mississippi's combined city and county libraries. (There is the slight difference, of course, of about \$200,000 annual budget). One fact of interest to county librarians at this season of the year was that Schenectady County had to appear before their Board of Supervisors three years in succession before they would allow money for bookmobile service. Apparently, it doesn't come easy anywhere,

Erie County's library set-up is on the principle of federation of libraries. Operating in actual practice like Mississippi's regional libraries, each library under the federated plan retains its own library board. The huge operation that was their centralized purchasing and processing systems was interesting, indeed. The striking thing about this set-up was the manner in which individual identities and authority has been preserved and all of the benefits of cooperation achieved.

The Watertown experiment, as the regional service center in Watertown has been called, is altogether another type of library service. Embracing three counties, this service center acts as wholesaler to retailer. On regular weekly visits to the three score individual libraries in the three counties, the staff of the regional center takes books and library materials. Professional services are offered, too, in the way of technical help, book selection guidance, and services direction. The enthusiastic report of the participating libraries would be encouraging to a consideration of that pattern elsewhere.

New York has taken what they had in the way of local situations and worked into satisfactory patterns, much as Mississippi is beginning to do. Where complete integration was not advisable, they have adopted federation. Where neither was advisable, they have set up the materials center.

The Governor and his staff seem to have taken active interest in library development. The scientific, business like approach to library development seemed everywhere.

Mrs. Currier says, "It was gratifying to find that their problems were much the same as Mississippi's and that they can be solved."

Mississippians attending A.L.A. Conference were:

Martha Couty, Library Commission  
Lura Currier, Library Commission  
Eunice Eley, Library Commission  
Elenora Gralow, Library Commission  
Eleanor Harkins, Delta State, Cleveland  
Anona Jenkins, Public Library, Clarksdale  
Annabelle Koonce, Department of Education, Jackson  
Mary Love, City Schools, Jackson  
Mrs. Mary Jo Magee, Mississippi Southern, Hattiesburg  
Mary Moore Mitchell, Talullah, Louisiana  
Humphrey Olson, Junior College, Perkinston  
Martha Owen, Veterans Hospital, Jackson  
Maria Person, Public Library, Gulfport  
Catherine Ray, Bailey Jr. High, Jackson  
Anna Roberts, Mississippi Southern, Hattiesburg  
Pearl Sneed, Public Library, Jackson  
Louise Trevillion, Public Library, Clarksdale

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#### SCHOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOP

Twenty-five school librarians registered for the school library workshop held at State College July 14-18. Several others attended one or more sessions. Annabelle Koonce, School Library Supervisor, State Department of Education, directed the conference. Miss Fannie Schmitt, School Library Consultant of the Alabama Department of Education, served as consultant. The meetings were held in the air-conditioned library.

The need of cooperative planning for the library on the part of all those connected with the school was emphasized throughout the week. Discussions covered such topics as the vertical file and Mississippi materials, student assistants and library clubs, publicity, the librarian in the guidance program, audio-visual materials, planning and remodeling, and teaching the use of books and libraries.

A program of basic instruction was provided for those requesting it. At the conclusion of the conference the week's work was evaluated by the participants, and the conclusions will serve as a basis for future conferences.

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#### EMORY UNIVERSITY HOLDS LIBRARY INSTITUTE

Willie D. Halsall, Lee County Librarian, gives a glowing report of the Library Institute for Practicing Librarians held at Emory University August 4-9 under the sponsorship of the Emory Division of Librarianship and the Georgia Library Association. Mrs. Gretchen K. Schenk was the director, assisted by May Graham, Maryland School Library Consultant and Mrs. Grace Stevenson, Assistant Executive Secretary of A.L.A.

The institute provided opportunity for librarians to work on their individual problems under the guidance of consultants. Some problems of vital interest which were discussed and worked out were: school and public library cooperation; library service to Negroes; bookmobile service;

library boards; staff training; classification and pay plans; public relations; library finance; American Heritage.

Tours were made to a number of local libraries. Through demonstrations and skits the institute was evaluated and conclusions reached. It was generally agreed that this was a most helpful period of in-service training for those present.

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#### STATE NEWS

The Mississippi Library Commission regrets to report that Elenora Gralow, Extension Librarian, has resigned to accept the position as librarian of the Lincoln County Library, Brookhaven. Miss Gralow has been a member of the Library Commission staff for the past four years, giving valuable service on bookmobile schedules to libraries throughout the state and in professional work with libraries, their staffs and boards. She will be greatly missed by her many library friends and her contribution to the development of libraries in Mississippi will continue as a lasting memorial to her efforts.

Martha Houston has joined the staff of the Library Commission to assist with the bookmobile service. Miss Houston, a graduate of Mississippi College, has been a teacher for the past three years.

Mrs. W. C. Mathews, Tupelo, a member of the Library Commission Board, has been appointed State Reading and Library Service Chairman for the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Benjamin Simmons, newly appointed librarian of the Copiah County Library, came to the Library Commission in July to take back over 100 books to supply the need for the "Little Indians" that were reading more books than the library had. This summer reading program for children has increased the circulation over 400%.

The graduating class of the Louisiana State University Library School this summer had the following Mississippi students: Mary Sherard, who is taking the position as head librarian in the Vicksburg Public Library; Mattie Mae Milner, Central High School Librarian, Jackson; Elizabeth Jones, Librarian, Grenada County Library; Brother Dominic, Saint Stanislaus High School, Bay St. Louis.

Before taking over the duties of librarian in Vicksburg, Mary Sherard spent some time in the Library Commission getting acquainted with the services of the Commission and the state library program.

The Library Commission assisted with a display of books and appropriate materials at six P.T.A. Institutes during the summer. The displays were assembled by librarians in the several locations; in Wesson by Mrs. Frank Oswalt, Junior College Librarian; at the Perkinston Junior College by Maria Person, Gulfport Public Library; in Meridian by Jeanne Broach and Ada Holladay; in Greenville by Jean Wilson from the Public Library. Jean wrote of their very interesting display featuring "THE PARENTS' BOOKSHELF" and "THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHELF." The display was left in the hotel where the Institute was held for a couple of days and later placed on exhibit in the library.

The Library Commission is anticipating with pleasure a visit from Mr. Jose' J. Ferrer, Chief Librarian of Dagupan City, Philippines. The schedule for Mr. Ferrer has been planned by the Library of Congress.

Last spring the Library Commission was visited by Mr. Abdul Haq, Assistant Commissioner of Education from Pakistan. Mr. Haq expressed keen interest in the work of the Library Commission and asked for samples of reports, maps and publications.

Mr. James R. Housel, the new Director of the First Regional Library, visited the Library Commission along with his bookmobile librarian and branch assistant. Beth Love and Kent Flowers came along to show Mr. Housel the way and to see for themselves what is going on at the Commission. Mr. Housel reports most interesting activities taking place in the First Region and progressive plans made for the future.

Mrs. Josephine Gully has resigned the position as librarian at the Northeast Junior College, Senatobia, to continue work on a library degree at the Louisiana State University Library School.

Mrs. Mary Emma Williams, Columbus, who received a library degree from Florida State University Library School this summer has accepted the position as librarian at the Northeast Junior College, Senatobia.

Miss Louise Lee has accepted a position as assistant with the Hinds County Library. Miss Lee was in the library science graduating class of M.S.C.W. in 1951 and has worked in the parish library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the past year.

The Library Commission had the pleasure of a recent visit by Mrs. Shirley Knowles Stevenson. Mrs. Stevenson, a native Mississippian, was formerly director of the state-wide W.P.A. library project in Mississippi. She is now instructor in the Louisiana State University Library School.

#### **Macon Library—Historically Speaking**

The Macon Library, under the direction of Mrs. Ada Sessions Fant, certainly looks in both directions—to the past and to the future. The Macon Library is assembling items in orderly fashion that are tomorrow going to be history. Librarians coming after her are going to find the path easier than she found it.

A tremendous amount of work has gone into the excellent vertical files of Mississippi history in the Macon Library. Her long experience as a newspaperwoman before she became librarian may account for her keen sense of variety and system in preserving information.

Mrs. Fant has made excellent scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on the State Rights' Movement in Mississippi. Can't you just see some eager 21st century college student poring through them to write his term paper on the turbulent Mississippi politics of the 1950's? The burning of Macon's courthouse will be, of course, one of the historical landmarks in the history of Noxubee County. Mrs. Fant knows that, and knows that as a librarian she has a responsibility for making history as well as collecting it; so she has a series of colored photographs of the progression of the fire.

Housed as it is in a War Memorial building, the library has taken special interest in veterans. They have assembled the names of all the men in Noxubee County who have served in the different wars. These have been listed in neat print and framed in attractive manner to hang on the walls of the building.

Working right beside Mrs. Fant, and carrying on her interest in local materials, is the new assistant librarian, Mrs. Burton C. Ford.

Mrs. Fant has stimulated local library interest through the years and now has the cooperation of an excellent library board. Some years ago when the library needed a new location Senator Lucas, who was primarily responsible for the erecting of a new building to serve veterans' needs, saw to it that the public library was given a choice location on the first floor of the building.

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#### Vicksburg—Library Trustees Will Do Anything for Publicity

Mrs. Norman Moore, member of the Vicksburg Library Board, campaigned long and hard to get a restricted parking zone in front of the public library. Finally the police department posted a fifteen-minute parking sign but all-day parking persisted. Mrs. Moore despaired of results but drove to the library to investigate air conditioning being installed at the library, parking in the yellow zone. Thirty minutes later she emerged to find a parking ticket. At police headquarters she was told that from here on out traffic regulations would be enforced. "It's worth paying a dollar," said Mrs. Moore. "It's proof my campaign was successful."

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#### Natchez—Selling Library Service

There is truth in the old proverb "Better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men." When the librarian gets editors to work selling the library that is something. Editorials from the two Natchez papers say, in part, "Often in the course of a day's work we find it necessary to visit the Fisk Library for purposes of research and there we always find courteous and helpful interest from the librarian on duty. Nothing is too much trouble and one goes on his way with the problem solved. Some libraries are housed in edifices of marble and stone costing hundreds of thousands of dollars but we doubt if anywhere there is a better one than our own Fisk Library." Another editorial has the heading "A Wise Way To Invest Our Municipal Funds." This is a thoughtful evaluation of the library as an educational institution, with praise for Manie Berry, the librarian.

#### SWAP COLUMN

From the fertile mind of Jeanne Broach, Meridian Public Library, comes the suggestion that Library News have a Swap Column—a place where librarians may list material which they would like to dispose of and material they want. This suggestion came from Jeanne several months ago and the Library Commission has already bought from her copies of several books which we needed and could not locate. Jeanne has the following titles to dispose of:

Mississippi Territorial Archives 1798-1803, Vol I  
Mississippi Provincial Archives, Vol, English Dominion  
Mississippi Historical Society, Publication of, Centenary Series Vol 1  
(2 copies) Vol 2, Vol 5 (2 copies)  
Official Records of Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the  
Rebellion, Series II, Vol 2 and 3  
Mississippi Register 1920-24, 1924-28  
and she would like to secure a set of  
Davis, Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government.

This sounds like a wonderful idea and we hope libraries will use this service. Every time there are books, pamphlets, documents that have served their usefulness or that are not needed in a particular library they may be listed in Library News for exchange or sale. As Jeanne suggests, this can be a sort of "Dear Mr. Anthony" column where libraries may exchange materials and perhaps ideas.

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